

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A coating formulation for drywall application comprising water, a binder present in an amount of between about 1.0% and about 4.0% by weight, a filler having a D50 between 5 and about 35 µm, said filler comprising at least about 60% by weight CaCO₃, and a polymeric noncellulosic thickener, wherein the coating formulation does not contain any cellulosic thickener and the viscosity of the coating formulation is from about 250 to about 1200 cps,

further comprising a dispersant, and

~~The coating formulation of claim 2, further comprising about 0.1 to about 20% by weight anti-cracking agent and about 0.1 to about 5% by weight workability agent.~~

4. (Original) The coating formulation of claim 3, wherein the anti-cracking agent is mica and the workability agent is clay.

5. (Previously Presented) The coating formulation of claim 3, wherein the dispersant is present in an amount of about 0.5 to about 15% by weight and the thickener is present in an amount of about 0.05 to about 50% by weight.

6. (Currently Amended) The coating formulation of claim [[2]] 3, wherein the binder is a latex binder.

7. (Original) The coating formulation of claim 6, wherein the binder is an acrylic latex binder.

8. (Previously Presented) The coating formulation of claim 7, wherein the dispersant is present in an amount of about 0.5 to about 15% by weight and the thickener is present in an amount of about 0.05 to about 50% by weight.
9. (Currently Amended) A coating formulation for drywall application comprising water, a binder present in an amount of between about 1.0% and about 4.0% by weight, a filler having a D50 between 5 and about 35 µm, said filler comprising at least about 60% by weight CaCO₃, and a polymeric noncellulosic thickener, wherein the coating formulation does not contain any cellulosic thickener and the viscosity of the coating formulation is from about 250 to about 1200 cps,
further comprising a dispersant, and
~~The coating formulation of claim 2, wherein the dispersant comprises a sodium polyacrylate.~~
10. (Currently Amended) A coating formulation for drywall application comprising water, a binder present in an amount of between about 1.0% and about 4.0% by weight, a filler having a D50 between 5 and about 35 µm, said filler comprising at least about 60% by weight CaCO₃, and a polymeric noncellulosic thickener, wherein the coating formulation does not contain any cellulosic thickener and the viscosity of the coating formulation is from about 250 to about 1200 cps,
~~The coating formulation of claim 1, wherein the thickener comprises a copolymer of an acrylic acid and an acrylic ester.~~
11. (Currently Amended) The coating formulation of claim [[1]] 10, wherein the filler comprises at least about 75% by weight CaCO₃.
12. (Original) The coating formulation of claim 3, wherein the filler comprises at least about 75% by weight CaCO₃.
13. (Currently Amended) A coating formulation for drywall application comprising water, a binder present in an amount of between about 1.0% and about 4.0% by weight, a filler having a D50 between 5 and about 35 µm, said filler comprising at least about 60% by weight CaCO₃, and a polymeric noncellulosic thickener, wherein

the coating formulation does not contain any cellulosic thickener and the viscosity of the coating formulation is from about 250 to about 1200 cps,

~~The coating formulation of claim 1,~~ wherein the filler further comprises magnesium carbonate, dolomite, gypsum, anhydrite, or mixtures thereof.

14. (Previously Presented) A coating formulation for drywall application comprising:
about 1 to about 4% by weight of a latex binder,
about 40 to about 70% by weight of a filler having a D50 between 5 and about 35 μm and comprising at least about 60% by weight CaCO_3 ,
about 0.5 to about 15% by weight of a dispersant,
about 0.05 to about 50% by weight of a polymeric noncellulosic thickener, and water in an amount sufficient to provide a viscosity for the formulation of about 300 to about 450 cps,
wherein the coating formulation does not contain any cellulosic thickener.

15. (Original) The coating formulation of claim 14, further comprising about 0.1 to about 20% by weight anti-cracking agent and about 0.1 to about 5% by weight workability agent.

16. (Original) The coating formulation of claim 15, wherein the anti-cracking agent is mica and the workability agent is clay.

17. (Original) The coating formulation of claim 15, wherein the dispersant comprises a sodium polyacrylate.

18. (Previously Presented) The coating formulation of claim 14, wherein the formulation comprises
about 45 to about 65% by weight of a filler comprising at least about 75% by weight CaCO_3 ,
about 2.0 to about 9.0% by weight of a dispersant,
about 0.1 to about 5.0% by weight of a noncellulosic thickener.

19. (Original) The coating formulation of claim 14, wherein the latex binder comprises an acrylic latex binder.
20. (Original) The coating formulation of claim 14, wherein the thickener comprises a copolymer of an acrylic acid and an acrylic ester.
21. (Original) The coating formulation of claim 14, wherein the filler comprises at least about 75% by weight CaCO_3 .
22. (Original) The coating formulation of claim 15, wherein the filler comprises at least about 75% by weight CaCO_3 .
23. (Original) The coating formulation of claim 14, wherein the filler further comprises magnesium carbonate, dolomite, gypsum, anhydrite, or mixtures thereof.
- 24-53. (Canceled)